



# National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

## Safety Recommendation

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**Date:** April 11, 2017

**In reply refer to:** H-17-15

Dr. Karen B. Salmon  
Maryland State Superintendent of Schools  
Maryland State Department of Education  
200 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201

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The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant accidents in other modes of transportation—railroad, highway, marine, and pipeline. We determine the probable cause of the accidents and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future accidents. In addition, we carry out special studies concerning transportation safety and coordinate the resources of the federal government and other organizations to provide assistance to victims and their family members affected by major transportation disasters. We are providing the following information to urge the Maryland State Department of Education to take action on the safety recommendation being issued in this letter.

On March 29, 2017, the NTSB adopted its safety recommendation report concerning the driver qualification processes for BCPS and the disqualified driver database for all Maryland school districts.<sup>1</sup> Additional information about the issues and the resulting recommendations may be found in the safety recommendation report, which can be accessed at the [NTSB website](#), under report number NTSB/HSR-17/02.

As a result of this safety recommendation report, we issued two new safety recommendations (one urgent) to Baltimore City Public Schools and the following new recommendation to the Maryland State Department of Education:

### H-17-15

Review and modify the *Code of Maryland Regulations* section 13A.06.07.07, “School Vehicle Driver Disqualifying Conditions and Termination,” to clarify the definitions of disqualifying conditions, and to require notification to the Maryland

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<sup>1</sup> *Shortcomings of Driver Qualification Processes for Baltimore City Public Schools and of the Disqualified Driver Database for All Maryland School Districts*, Highway Safety Recommendation Report NTSB/HSR-17/02 (Washington, DC: National Transportation Safety Board, 2017).

State Department of Education of all drivers who are determined to be not qualified during pre-employment screening.

Then-Acting Chairman DINH-ZARR and Members HART, SUMWALT, and WEENER concurred in this recommendation.

The NTSB is vitally interested in this recommendation because it is designed to prevent accidents and save lives. We would appreciate receiving a response from you within 90 days detailing the actions you have taken or intend to take to implement it. When replying, please refer to the safety recommendation by number. We encourage you to submit your response electronically to [correspondence@ntsb.gov](mailto:correspondence@ntsb.gov). If it exceeds 10 megabytes, including attachments, please e-mail us at the same address for instructions. Please do not submit both an electronic copy and a hard copy of the same response.

[Original Signed]

By: Robert L. Sumwalt, III  
Acting Chairman